**JUNE 2022 IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**HELP MAKE ERIN’S WISH COME TRUE**

[(Click here for images)](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1U--sca0LNY0Vxo1TwbgsobCNb4Y4f7Kb?usp=sharing)

With the end of the financial year fast approaching, Make-A-Wish Australia® is asking Australians to consider making a tax-deductible donation to help grant incredible wishes to critically ill kids.

Each year, thousands of Australian children are diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. Right now, more than 800 critically ill children have started their wish journey and are waiting for their wish to be granted, and nine-year-old Erin is one of them.

Erin has faced many hurdles in her young life. When Erin was just six, she began complaining of a sore back and was taken to hospital where doctors found a tiny lump. After multiple blood tests, x-rays, scans, and a rush to The Royal Children’s Hospital the family’s worst fears were confirmed.

Erin was diagnosed with a Wilms tumour, a form of cancer that develops in the kidneys. By the time of her diagnosis, Erin’s cancer was already at stage four, with an 18cm tumour on her right kidney.

For months Erin endured gruelling treatment. “At seven years old, she’d gone through more medical procedures than most people in their whole lives. Erin went through countless blood tests, the most intense chemotherapy and radiation therapy.

“As if that wasn’t enough, Erin had surgery to remove her right kidney and part of her lung. She even lost half her body weight. I don’t know how she coped, I really don’t,” Erin’s grandmother, Kylie said.

During a break in treatment, Erin was resting at home in Portland when her temperature shot up to 40 degrees and she was airlifted back to hospital. Erin had developed a severe infection in her port, which was used to deliver her medication. Erin continued her treatment at The Royal Children’s Hospital, every day was a challenge, especially being hundreds of kilometres away from her family farm.

Throughout her treatment, Erin was strengthened by the hope of going home to see her Shetland pony, Ella. Erin’s family arranged for her to have video calls with the animals on the farm, her face lighting up when she’d see her pony or a chook.

Tragically Ella the pony passed away while Erin was undergoing treatment in hospital and couldn’t be there for Ella’s last moments. “She loved that pony, and she couldn’t even say goodbye,” Kylie said.

Erin is now in remission and is still searching for her dream horse, she would love it to have the sleekest, shiniest coat and a long silky main and tail.

Make-A-Wish Australia brings incredible people together to grant inspiring wishes for children with critical illnesses like Erin and relies entirely on donations to continue its life-changing work.

Please make a tax-deductible gift before 30 June and help wishes like Erin’s to come true. Generous donations from the Australian community ensure that Erin’s dream horse will be with her as soon as possible.

A wish will put a spring in the step of more than 800 children currently waiting for their wish to come true. It will provide them much needed hope for their future, and the belief that good things and happier days will be possible.

Erin has been through so much in her life, and still, she smiles, she only wants to help others. So today, help Erin and other critically ill children like her, by making their wishes come true.

30 June is the end of the financial year, by making a generous gift and helping others, your gift could also help you. Anything you donate before 30 June will be deducted from your taxable income for this financial year.

CEO of Make-A-Wish Australia, Sally Bateman, said the organisation recently celebrated 36 years since granting its first ever wish and has granted more than 10,000 wishes in total.

“Our wish program receives no government funding, so we rely on the generosity of the public to keep granting wishes to critically ill children. Wishes have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of sick kids, as well as those of their families and communities.

“Our Wish Force are working hard to grant as many wishes as they can but given the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 we currently have more children waiting than ever before. With the end of the financial year fast approaching, please consider helping us grant more wishes by making a tax-deductible donation.

For more information or to donate to Make-A-Wish Australia, please visit <https://www.makeawish.org.au>

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**About Make-A-Wish**

Make-A-Wish is one of Australia's [most trusted charities](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.makeawish.org.au%2Fnews%2Ftrusted-charity-2020&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc2099db8aa8a4460c6ad08da3df8efd9%7C53d90198f7b249858eef59fb50014d8f%7C0%7C0%7C637890436640529192%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=e7OZOKFpzeTzznh%2BWevC5dKNh0SeNeNWqoMZY5kZjbo%3D&reserved=0)and is part of the world’s largest wish-granting organisation. It exists to bring the local community together to grant life-changing wishes for children and teens with critical illnesses. Since 1985 it has delivered more than 10,000 inspirational wishes to children across the country. From the humble to the seemingly impossible – the Wish Force has made unicorns fly, sent kids to the moon and even brought dinosaurs back from extinction. Make-A-Wish Australia led the world in adopting the Wish Journey, a carefully curated program which focuses on wish capture and design, building anticipation for each child ahead of their wish being realised. In 2022, Make-A-Wish Australia was proud to place in YouGov Australia’s [Top 10 Charity Rankings.](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fau.yougov.com%2Fnews%2F2022%2F02%2F22%2Fyougov-australia-2022-charity-rankings%2F&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cc2099db8aa8a4460c6ad08da3df8efd9%7C53d90198f7b249858eef59fb50014d8f%7C0%7C0%7C637890436640529192%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ul%2FzknXo8LsnfygGYWnFTIXoBatU3UyP4wuCuGjXzQU%3D&reserved=0)